



# ***The Resonator***

**Official Newsletter of The Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club**

**Volume 10, Number 2**

**www.FairLawnARC.org**

**February 2025**

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## **President's Message**

It has been just about a month since I became the club president. I have high expectations for the club this year. Since I am writing this article before Winter Field Day, I can only hope that everyone and everything went smoothly.

I have a question that I would like to ask our members. What kind of member are you? Are you an active member or what I call a "ghost member?" Do you know what a ghost member is? That is a member that pays their dues every year but never participates in any Club activity. Now I am not talking about members who no longer live in the area. I am talking about all our local members that can be more active in the club. One of my goals this year is to try to get as many members as possible engaged in some sort of club activity.

One of our first activities will be the Super Science Saturday event at Ridgewood High School on March 1, 2025. This event is headed by Robert, KD2SOG. If you would like more information or to volunteer to help, please email him at [robertmarchini1893@gmail.com](mailto:robertmarchini1893@gmail.com) ... We talk about getting more young people involved in our hobby; here is a chance to showcase what we do.

Also In March, Gene K2KJI will be doing a live coffee talk at the Senior Center. His presentation will be on the work of HamSCI for which our colleague Ed WX2R is the Public Information Officer. Gene will also talk about W3USR, the new amateur radio station at the University of Scranton. We are planning to put together a day trip to the University to see their superstation. It will be on either the second or third Thursday of April. Mark your calendar. More details will follow as we get closer to the event.

In either April or May, we will have a Portable Day. Again, there will be more information as we get closer. Also, in May we will again be providing communications for the Memorial Day parade. As you know, June will be a remarkably busy month with both the Fair Lawn Street Fair and then Summer Field Day.

I have tried to cover some of the items that the club will be doing. So please think about becoming a more active member and being part of a terrific club!

**Remember:  
Ham Radio Is a Contact Sport!**

73, Gene WO2W

## Our Sponsors

← Arrow Antenna →



THREE  
MOSQUITOS  
GEAR

WAYNE ELECTRONICS LLC

KB<sup>3</sup>

Easy Way Ham Books



We very much appreciate the Sponsorships and Door Prize Donations received from the groups and companies whose logos are shown above.



## Notable Hams

by Jim Jalil W2KNG

This column features notable hams both past and present. This month we feature one of the most well known and influential, in a roundabout way, amateur radio operators of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. For hams of a certain age his name cannot but evoke a smile of fond recollection and fast association with a by-gone era. We refer of course to the renowned and legendary ham radio cartoonist, Phil ("Gil") Gildersleeve W1CJD (ex-1ANE).



**Phil Gildersleeve W2CJD**

Phil ("Gil") Gildersleeve was born in Portland, Connecticut in 1908. Just out of high school around 1926 Gil joined the United Fruit Company as a radio operator aboard United Fruit ships traveling the shipping lanes between New York and Latin America. He seems to have done this for several years before returning to Portland to settle down. In 1940 Gil joined the Middletown Press just across the Connecticut River from Portland. He would work there for the rest of his life. He first joined the Middletown Press as its Portland Correspondent. He quickly rose through the ranks becoming County Editor in 1943 and City Editor in 1945.

Gil was lifelong active ham. Sometime before 1927 Gil obtained his ham radio license with the call 1ANE. After prefixes were authorized in 1927 he obtained the call W1CJD, a call he held for the rest of his life. He was an avid CW operator and it is said he could copy Morse

Code at 60 WPM. His daughters recalled that he would keep his radio on and listen to high speed CW while he worked, copying everything in his head.

From his youth Gil was a natural and very talented cartoonist. In fact, in 1933 at the age of 25, Gil drove across the country with a portfolio of cartoons intending to apply for a position at the Walt Disney Company. Sadly his dream of becoming a professional cartoonist and animation artist with the Disney Company did not come to fruition, he was not offered a job. Perhaps a bit deflated, Gil returned to Connecticut.

That would not be the end of his cartooning career however. In 1926 Gil contributed his first ham radio related cartoon to QST. Soon thereafter he began to contribute a cartoon every month for QST and would continue to do so for the next 40 years.

Gil is revered to this day for his ham radio themed cartoons and QST covers. His characters, such as the much confused but enthusiastic butler, Jeeves, and the members of the Podunk Hollow Radio Club and their yearly Field Day extravaganzas became familiar friends over the years for generations of hams.

Over his career Gil contributed more than 1,500 cartoons and magazine covers for QST. Gil was still contributing cartoons right up to his untimely death in 1966.

Perhaps the two best ways of remembering the legendary cartoonist are first to quote from what Laird Campbell W1CUT, the longtime Managing Editor of QST, wrote in his introduction to a book of Gil cartoon reprints. He wrote :

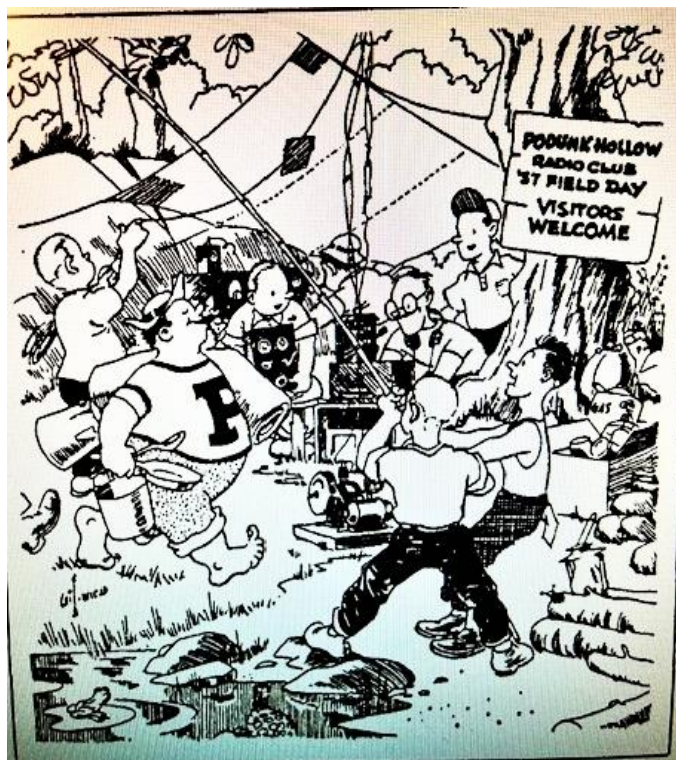
"Gil's work has become a tradition. His knack for expressing ideas, feelings or situations unique to Amateur Radio was, and still is, unexcelled... Gil's creations will never be forgotten."

But an even better way to remember and honor a very talented fellow ham who made generations of hams smile is to reproduce a couple of his classics on the next page.

Continued on next page.



## Notable Hams, continued



Phil ("Gil") Gildersleeve W2CJD SK





The Westchester Emergency Communications Assn.  
Box 831 Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

[www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org)

2025

## Amateur General Ham Radio Class!

WECA will be conducting its annual **free** preparatory class for the Amateur General FCC exam this spring **in-person** at the Valhalla Fire Training Center 4 Dana Road in Valhalla, NY 10595 **and via Zoom**. The class will run for nine weeks **starting Tuesday evening March 11<sup>th</sup> from 7-9:15 PM ET**. Subsequent classes will be on Tuesday evenings per the schedule below. Holders of the General license are permitted many additional frequency privileges including access to all HF bands, therefore,

### Capability to talk to the World!

Please join us for this free interactive course taught by a team of knowledgeable Extra and General Class Amateur Radio Operators from WECA. The class will review the test pool questions and answers and provide explanations of the accompanying concepts. All are welcome to attend who wish to gain additional knowledge of amateur radio even if you do not expect to take the test or have a license.

All classes are recorded and posted on [www.WECA.APP](http://www.WECA.APP) for review and self-study.

### Texts:

1. **The ARRL General Class License Manual 10<sup>th</sup> Edition** (includes access to on-line practice)
2. **The ARRL General Q&A Manual 7<sup>th</sup> Edition** (Includes explanations for all questions.)

Both are available from ARRL at:

<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/ProductDetails/productId/2009476073> or from:

Gene W2KJI at KJI Electronics, Cedar Grove, NJ: 973-571-1930;

Gene is a reputable local ham radio dealer or from:

Amazon- Be very sure to order the correct editions.

1. **Please purchase the License Manual and begin reading as soon as possible.**
2. **The Q&A manual is also very helpful, but not required.**

### Syllabus & Schedule:

3/11	Tuesday	Ch 1	The General Class License & Ham Radio
		Ch 2	Procedures and Practices
3/18	Tuesday	Ch 3	Rules and Regulations
3/25	Tuesday	Ch 4	Components and Circuits
4/1	Tuesday	Ch 5	Radio Signals and Equipment
4/8	Tuesday	Practical Exercise: HF Station Equipment Display & Antenna Install	
4/15	Tuesday	Ch 6	Digital Modes
4/22	Tuesday	Ch 7	Antennas
4/29	Tuesday	Ch 8	Propagation
5/6	Tuesday	Ch 9	Electrical and RF Safety, Review
5/8	Thursday	VE Test Session in Valhalla, NY	

If you would like to upgrade to Amateur General, please contact me at [Education@WECA.org](mailto:Education@WECA.org) so I can register you and provide additional information.

Larrie Sutliff / W2UL

WECA Education Director

FTC Closing Weather Number: 914-231-1615 (Zoom conducted even if FTC closes)

## Some interesting snow facts:

1. One inch of rain equals 5 inches of wet snow and 15 inches of dry snow
2. The dielectric constant (e) of snow depends on its density and is measured as between 1 and 3 (where 1 is the dielectric constant of air). Ice is 3.2 and water is 80
3. Snow is not a good conductor of electricity because its ions are not mobile
4. It snowed in New England during the summer of 1816 due to the eruption of the Tambora volcano in the South Pacific
5. All snowflakes have six sides and it is true that no two are exactly alike
6. Snow absorbs sound waves which is why it is so quiet and everything around it seems quieter
7. Wet snow makes better snowmen and snowballs

— Thanks to Jim Jalil W2KNG

## 2025 Dues

**New members: only \$20 for your first year !**

**There are no changes to dues for the upcoming year. Renew now, and let us know what activities or features would make you more active with the club.**

**Please make checks payable to:  
"Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club"  
and send them to:**

**Fair Lawn ARC  
– Attn: Treasurer  
10-10 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410**

**Please include a member application form with your  
\$25 check regardless of your member status.  
It can be found near the back of this newsletter.**



## The Resonator Is Now Archived!

Ever wanted to search for something in *The Resonator*? Maybe a member profile. Perhaps a past Street Fair. Even who participated at Field Day in 2017.

Now you can. *The Resonator* has now been accepted as part of the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications. DLARC is a project of the Internet Archive (the not-for-profit online library best known for *The Wayback Machine*.) DLARC is growing to be a massive online library of the past and present of ham radio and related communications. It is funded by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications.

When you need to find something, go to:  
<https://archive.org/details/flarc-resonator>

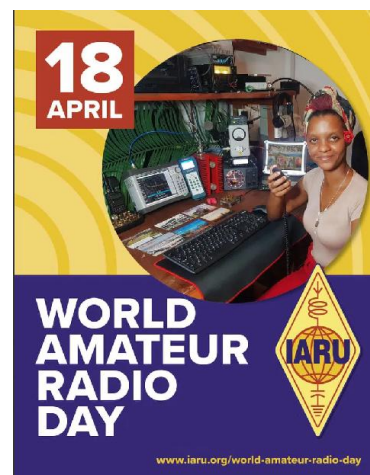
You can use the search "text contents" field to do a full-text search on all issues or click "Date Published" to see them sorted by publication date.

## Get Direct With FLARC!

Here is a direct link to specific club info: just a click away!

<http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://auction.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://events.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://exams.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://news.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://swap.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://tech.FairLawnARC.org>  
<http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

<https://groups.io/g/FairLawnARC>



# The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio

Why is FLARC New Jersey's Most Exciting Radio Club?



## Annual and Special Events



- Field Day
- Winter Field Day
- World Amateur Radio Day
- Portable Day
- Earth and Environmental Days
- Field Trips
- Club Exchanges
- Special Even
- Public Service Activities
- Public Events
- Ham fests and Auctions
- Foxhunts
- Contests
- Youth Activities and more

## There Is Something Every Night At FLARC!

Monday: Near and Far Net

Tuesday: DMR Net and Open House at the clubhouse

Wednesday: ARES/RACES Net

Thursday: Tech Net

Friday: Open House at the clubhouse or *Kawfee Tawk* Speaker Series (Monthly via Zoom)

Weekends: Open House at the clubhouse, POTA and other station activations, Contests, Foxhunts



## Special Interest Groups

- Portable Ops (POTA, SOTA, etc.)
- DX: Chase the rare ones
- Digital Voice: DMR and other modes
- FT8: Plus, other WSJT modes
- Satellite: Also, for weather interests
- Monitoring: SWL and other listening
- Contesting
- EMCOMM
- Radio Direction Finding
- Raspberry pi, Arduino



## Plus:

- A five-position operating station clubhouse
- An active repeater—W2NPT linked with NJ2BS.
- New antennas on the roof
- Monthly VE testing
- An award-winning newsletter
- Monthly speaker programs
- Educational programs and activities
- Active in-person and social networking
- An extensive video education archive

## That is Why FLARC Is the Most Exciting Club Around!

Come join us in-person or via Zoom for more activities, speakers, and projects!

[www.fairlawnarc.org](http://www.fairlawnarc.org)





**The Club** Fair Lawn ARC is the fastest growing ham club around, with five operating positions in a permanent clubhouse. Visitors and guests are always welcome. The club is open every Friday night, except when there is a Business Meeting scheduled, from NLT 6:30 PM. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30PM.

#### 2025 Officers, Committees and Assignments

President	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Vice President	Nomar Vizcarrondo	NP4H
Treasurer	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
Secretary	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Trustee	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Trustee	Lowell "Van" VantSlot	W2DLT
Trustee	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
Member Services	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Health & Welfare	Nomar Vizcarrondo	NP4H
Marketing	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Program	[open]	
Video/YouTube	Thom Guida	W2NZ
Social Media	Brian Duddy	N2BTD
	Thom Guida	W2NZ
	Dave Marotti	NK2Q
Photographer	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
Community Relations	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
	Dave Gotlib	KD2MOB
Field Day2025	[open]	
Winter Field Day 2025	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
Hamfest	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Auction	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN
Education	[open]	
Youth Outreach	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
Adult Outreach	Lowell "Van" VantSlot	W2DLT
	Jim Cooper	W2JC
VE Testing Coordinator	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Special Events	James Gallo	KB2FMH
Contests	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
FLARC Historian	Fred Belghaus	KR2H [W2AAB]
Webmaster	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Technical Chair	Dave deCoons	WO2X
EmComm	Jim Breheny	N2JLF
RACES/ARES Director	Dave Gotlib	KD2MOB
RACES/ARES Liaison	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
Newsletter Editor	Jim Jalil	W2KNG
Newsletter Publisher	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Club Station Manager	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
Quartermaster	Fred Wawra	W2ABE
W2NPT Trustee	Jim Cooper	W2JC
NK2H Trustee	Ed Efchak	WX2R

President serves as ex officio to all committees

## Want a Call Sign License Plate?

Amateur Radio (Ham operators) license plates may be purchased for a \$15 fee, for passenger vehicles, but not for commercial vehicles or motorcycles. (Applicants must be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.)

Call MVC at 609.292.6500 or (toll free in NJ) 888.486.3339 to request an application.

The club has applications from time to time. If you would like an application, visit the "contact us" page, and we'll get one out to you.. Or find the form and detailed instructions at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/pdf/vehicles/SP-23.pdf>



## Letters:

### A feature of *The Resonator*

The editor has received a lot of nice notes, letters and comments about this newsletter and the club in general. We have not published them in the past but going forward we will at least try.

Here are the grounds rules:

- Please keep all comments as brief and succinct as possible.
- No personal attacks.
- No political rants.
- No comments promoting violence, racism, religious intolerance, vulgarity, obscenity, or other such discourteous behavior.
- The Editor reserves the right to exclude any comments that violate our guidelines and may subject the writer to further disciplinary action by the club.

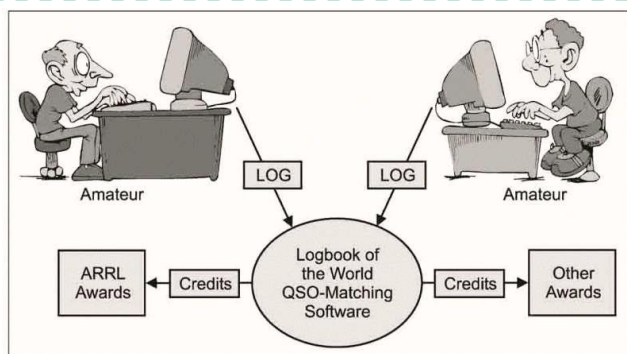


# A QSL card is the final courtesy of an amateur radio contact.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QSL\\_card](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QSL_card)

**INCOMING QSL Bureau** -- if you have been making on-the-air contacts, you might very well have a package of exciting QSL cards from around the world waiting for you at the incoming QSL Bureau. If you previously received cards from them, check to see if you have any “credits” left by going to [https://www.njdx.org/?page\\_id=869](https://www.njdx.org/?page_id=869) If you never contacted them, they probably have cards for you! Go to this page -- [https://www.njdx.org/?page\\_id=25](https://www.njdx.org/?page_id=25) and get some ‘credits’ to cover the postage for mailing your cards to you.

To learn about the W2 Bureau, [https://www.njdx.org/?page\\_id=30](https://www.njdx.org/?page_id=30)



Those who upload logs to Logbook of the World become eligible to redeem confirmation credits for awards. LoTW wants and needs *all* logs. Uploading is free, so send your logs today!

## NOTE:

While LotW is back on line and seems to be perking along just fine, we’re advised that the DXCC part and application process is not yet restored. If you have plans to apply for DXCC, or endorsements, be patient and expect a few months delay.

## Follow FLARC ON THE WEB

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>

**Twitter:** @FairLawnARC

**Youtube:** <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

**Website:** <http://FairLawnARC.org>

## SIG Group Membership

Here is an update on the roster of Special Interest Groups... many groups have increased in size during the last month. About 45% of all members have joined at least one group.

<u>SIG Name</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>#</u>
Contesting	W2DLT	14
Digital Voice		30
EmComm	N2JLF	13
Monitoring	WX2R	25
DX	W2JC	18
FT8	W2JC	22
Satellites	N2AAM	20
Portable Ops	W2MSA	48
Radio Astronomy	WX2R	4
Raspberry pi		7
Direction Finding		6
<b>FLARC General</b>		<b>174</b>

Sign up for a group... or ...  
why not start one?

Contact [webmaster@FairLawnARC.org](mailto:webmaster@FairLawnARC.org)  
if you would like to start a new  
Special Interest Group.

# The Clubhouse Is Open Three Fridays In February!!

Date	Clubhouse Status
February 7	<b>CLOSED</b> – Business Meeting at Fair Lawn <b>Senior</b> Center
February 14	<b>OPEN</b>
February 21	<b>OPEN</b>
February 28	<b>OPEN</b>



## Pop-Up Tuesdays are now in-person at the club.

The club will follow all borough COVID-19 requirements for these events.



**Editor's Corner — by Jim Jalil W2KNG**

Section 97.1(b) of the FCC Rules and Regulations contains one of the four justifications for the allocation of precious radio spectrum for amateur radio use. It states as a “fundamental principle”:

“The continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.”

That “fundamental principle” and justification for our existence as hams is a challenge to all amateur radio operators, a challenge to develop our “proven ability” to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. If we fail in that challenge we eliminate a significant justification for our very existence.

Interestingly, note the use of the word “art.” It does not say radio science, it says radio art. Although hams have contributed significantly and at times profoundly to radio science, it is the advancement of the radio art that is expected of us, not scientific breakthroughs. The FCC does not expect or require each of us to be the next Edwin Armstrong and invent frequency modulation. Of course through the licensing process each of us is expected to have a working knowledge of the fundamentals of radio. But we are not expected to be amateur electrical engineers.

What we are expected to do is contribute to the advancement of the radio art in some manner. How can we contribute to the “radio art?”

The answer is we contribute to the radio art through development of that niche of ham radio that interests us. In whatever aspect of ham radio we pursue our challenge is to strive to develop the radio art in that niche as best we can — to be the best POTA activators we can be, to be the best EmComm hams we can be, to be the best DX operators we can be, to be the satellite hams we can be.

Whatever we choose to do, we should challenge ourselves to be the best we can be in that chosen niche.

That is how we advance the radio “art,” each in his or her own way.

Being a ham, having a ham radio license, is a privilege, not a right. To justify that privilege we are expected to contribute to the radio art in some way. We can even contribute to the radio art by refraining from doing things, such as refraining from causing radio frequency interference or refraining from being a horse's rear end on 80 meters. That advances the radio art.

The beauty of ham radio is it is a community and we don't have to, or even should, do it alone. In challenging each other to be the best we can be in our chosen niches, in sharing best practices, we contribute to the radio art. In sharing our enthusiasm, knowledge and experience in a chosen niche with others just coming into that niche we contribute to the radio art.

Each of us has an aspect of ham radio which interests us. Once we decide on that niche we should then develop our skills in the area and be the best we can be in that niche.

That meets our obligation to the FCC to contribute to the radio art. So too does trying something new, learning its ways and nuances and slowly expanding our ham radio horizons. That too fulfills our obligation to advance the radio art.

We have a challenge. We are expected to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. We should dedicate ourselves to meeting that challenge, each of us in his or her own way.

**Subpart A—General Provisions****§ 97.1 Basis and purpose.**

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.



## Vast Archive of FLARC Activities and Info

Members are reminded that we have a large archive of YouTube videos of our previous many years of Kawfee Tawk™ presentations, which cover many aspects of ham radio. Our mostly unsung hero club videographer, Thom W2NZ, has spent thousands of hours of his own time creating really professional quality videos of these 167 presentations. Visit our club YouTube page and you will see all of them listed on the main page, at <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Another large and rather unused archive is that of our seven years of the club newsletter, The Resonator. They provide a nice historical record of the many activities of FLARC over the years, as well as lots of useful info about ham radio and electronics. The entire archive is at <http://newsletters.FairLawnARC.org>

And don't forget the FILES area of our groups.io website, where useful and important info is saved:

<https://fairlawnarc.groups.io/g/main/files>

## Renew Your ARRL Dues... Send Free Money to FLARC!

The ARRL has a great program to support affiliated clubs in that it sends part of your dues back to the club if you renew through the club.

So... when you get your ARRL renewal, send both your check and your renewal application to our trusty Treasurer, who will take care of getting your renewal to Newington and a fat check for \$5.00 back to FLARC.

Nothing can be simpler...  
you just have to remember!!

Print and use the  
form on page 30  
of this issue of  
The Resonator



## Club Apparel — Get Them While They're **RED**!

Club apparel is always in vogue. Red is always "in" and your club friends all have them... you *want* a shirt or jacket for the next FLARC event! Great for Field Day!

Don't forget.... they're easy to order.

Go to [www.hamthreads.com](http://www.hamthreads.com)

or visit <http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>

**Check out the item selection that is posted on the FLARC website (with pictures and prices).** Order the shirts or other items you want with either the regular FLARC logo or the still-cool 60th anniversary logo. Note: **RED** is the primary and preferred club standard shirt color.

And why not WEAR your nice red shirt when you come to the club, especially for meetings and events.



It's easy to spot FLARC members  
wearing their red club shirts !

## Ham Radio Is Contagious And It Won't Make You Sick!!

### 2024 FLARC Net On The W2NPT Repeater:

*Near and Far Net • Mondays at 8PM*

*W2NPT Repeater and EchoLink*

**Special Note:** As non-profit, the IRS now requires that we disclose annually the use of paid lobbyists to our members and indicate approximately what percentage of their dues goes toward that. 0% of your dues payment will be used by the club to directly pay a lobbyist firm to lobby on behalf of all our members regarding pending legislation that impacts our hobby.



**NEWHAMS.INFO**

Training, information, and encouragement for new amateur radio operators.

<https://newhams.info/>

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#### BEQUEATHS AND DONATIONS

Planned gifts usually imply the family donation of amateur equipment to the club when someone has become a Silent Key. But it can be more. Club members might consider making a gift through a will or trust; gifts that help provide lifetime income to the club. Consult with your lawyer, estate planner or tax advisor if you feel such a gift is worthy.

Thanks!  
for your  
Support!!

**This is YOUR club.... Be a part of it !!**

## About The Club

The Resonator is published monthly and is the official (and only) newsletter of The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. FLARC was established in 1956 and has met continuously since inception. **The club is sponsored by the Borough of Fair Lawn.** The club meets every Friday, except when a Business Meeting is scheduled, at 6PM at the club station in The Fair Lawn Community Center, 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Fair Lawn Senior Center, and on Zoom.

Visitors **ARE ALWAYS** welcome at our meetings.

FLARC operates the W2NPT repeater (145.470- PL167.9) located high atop the Community Center. The analog repeater is open to all amateurs for use without restrictions.

The club has nearly two hundred paid members.

Dues are currently       \$25 per year;  
                                     \$20 for new members.

For more information, please see our website, at

<http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>

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**FAIR LAWN'S  
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER!**

**With Our Antennas On The Roof!**



## Around the Shack

— by Hal Kennedy N4GG

### My Straight Key

For many of us our straight key is like an old friend. It is, well, no, wait... it's not *like* an old friend, it *is* an old friend.

My straight key – the only one I've owned, is a *really old* friend. It came into my possession in 1960 as I was studying “the code” to pass the novice exam. I don't recall the details surrounding how I got it. I do know I'm not the first owner.

Like enduring friendships, my straight key shows wear. It has a nick or two from unintentional rough handling and it has needed repair at times to keep it serviceable. It's also seen neglect. Years of neglect. I rebuilt parts of it this year to get it ready for Straight Key Night.



Here's my key. It's branded “Teleplex.” The decal on the Bakelite base says “Manufactured by Teleplex, New York, N.Y.” The Teleplex company is long out of business, but traces of its history can be found using Google. I have never seen another Teleplex key in the wild. There are two examples however in Tom Perera's (W1TP) key museum: <http://w1tp.com>.

The Teleplex Co. did business at an address that puts a smile on my face: 76 Cortlandt St., New York. For those who aren't, ahem, of a certain age group (read: old) and/or didn't grow up around NYC, Cortlandt Street was the epicenter of what was once called “Radio Row.” Radio Row is a good subject for a future column. For anyone interested in electronics, and particularly for hams, Radio Row was the place you went to get everything from parts for your next project to complete radios.

For years, Radio Row was overflowing with World War II surplus. ARC-5s, Command Sets, ART-13s, BC-610s, you name it – they were all for sale. The prices were fair and negotiable; the smell of cosmoline hung in the air. Need a CRT to build yourself a tuning scope for RTTY? Head to Radio Row. You'd have your pick of screen size, phosphor color and persistence.

Here are the first two paragraphs of the Wikipedia article on Radio Row:

*“New York City's Radio Row, which existed from 1921 to 1966, was a warehouse district on the Lower West Side of Manhattan, New York City. Major firms that started there include Arrow Electronics, Avnet (founded by Charles Avnet in 1921), and Schweber Electronics.*

*The first of many radio-related stores was City Radio, opened in 1921 by Harry Schneck on Cortlandt Street, which became the central axis of a several-block area of electronics stores.”*

Arrow Electronics at 82 Cortlandt Street and nearby Harrison Radio at 12 West Broadway were ham heaven. All the major manufacturers sold through both, including National, Hallicrafters and Hammarlund. Think of Arrow and Harrison as early versions of HRO and Gigaparts.

It may seem odd that Radio Row had a specific end date, 1966, if you don't know the history. By the mid '60s Radio Row found itself in the wrong place at the wrong time. In 1966, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey seized the entire area claiming eminent domain. 164 buildings (including most of Radio Row) were demolished to provide the land on which the World Trade Center twin towers were built.

Now, back to my Teleplex key. It apparently began its life on Cortlandt Street in NYC. Teleplex came into being in the early 1920s. Its principal products were code practice sets. Teleplex ran ads in QST every month from April 1927 until January 1945. The three

Continued on next page.



## Around the Shack, Continued

images below show QST ads for the basic product.

**New! Portable TELEPLEX**

Makes It Easy to Learn Code



**MORSE or CONTINENTAL.** The TELEPLEX is the only instrument that REPRODUCES actual sending of expert operators. Sends messages, radiograms, etc.—2 to 80 words per minute. Always ready. Saves months of tiresome practice. Sends five times as many words with one tape as any other instrument, and six are furnished. Satisfied users everywhere. Used by U. S. Navy. Fully guaranteed. Write NOW for FREE literature. Dealers Wanted

**TELEPLEX CO.**  
76 Cortlandt St., New York

Learn the Code at HOME This EASY Way

COMPLETE course in Morse or Continental With the **TELEPLEX**



REPRODUCES actual sending of expert operators. Sends five times as many words with one roll of tape as any other instrument, and six rolls are furnished. Extra rolls of tape from our unlimited stock. \$1.00 each. Special rolls of 500 words made to order under \$2.00. Not merely short simple words—but exact messages, radiograms, newspaper matter, etc. used in actual work. About 80% per cent. faster and clearer than cannot be memorized. Teaching Morse or Continental in half the time. Positively improves ability of the best operators. Now an essential in every radio station. Learn Morse or Continental in 10 days without key and sounder or contact. Nothing else to buy. You miss the thrill of racing unless you know the rules. Write TODAY for particulars of this amazing instrument. A post card will do. DEALERS EVERYWHERE. Write for quotation.

**TELEPLEX CO., 76 Cortlandt St., New York**

## READ SEND CODE LIKE AN EXPERT!

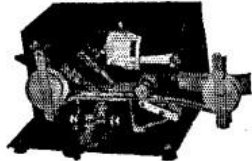
Learn Quickly at Home; Get Real Speed

It's easy, fascinating, to become a good op with the New MASTER TELEPLEX Code Teacher to help you. Only instrument ever produced which records your sending in visible dots and dashes on copper tapes — then sends back to you. Also sends practice work, recorded by an expert, at any speed you want. Thousands agree this is the surest, quickest way to learn the code. Used by U. S. Army, Navy, A. T. & T., R. C. A., and others. We furnish Complete Course, lend you Master Teleplex, give you personal instruction with a **BOOK MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE.** Low cost. Send to-day for booklet Q. 30; no obligation; post card will do.

**TELEPLEX COMPANY**

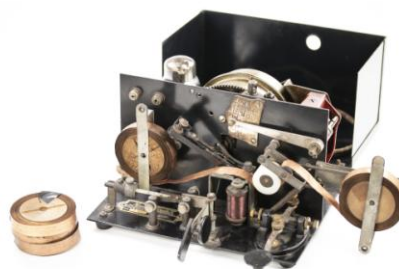
76 Cortlandt Street  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

MASTER TELEPLEX — "The Choice of Those Who Know"



The image below is a photo of one of their more advanced

sets. It included a straight key and a sideways-turned bug built into the base of the machine.



Teleplex always branded their products as a "Master Teleplex." The original Master Teleplex design was a clockworks-powered set of reels moving a perforated paper tape over a set of contacts. The contacts keyed an audio oscillator. The perforations in the paper tape corresponded to dots and dashes. The machines sent random 5 letter code groups and the speed was adjustable. You could buy a Teleplex machine, but Teleplex would also rent you one. The company survived the great depression and the second world war.

Over time the hand-cranked clockworks gave way to an electric motor and the perforated tape changed from paper to metal foil. The oscillator went through revisions too but was always based on a single vacuum tube. Teleplex packaged a straight key in with Master Teleplex sets that did not have one built in. The key was for students to practice sending and some Master Teleplex machines could record and play back!

The key was also for instructors to send at speeds outside the range of the machine and for practicing something other than 5 letter groups. My Teleplex straight key probably became separated from a Master Teleplex machine no later than early in 1960. When I acquired it, it had probably never keyed a transmitter.

I began making QSOs with my Teleplex straight key in January 1961 with callsign WV2QPW. My first contact, and all early QSOs, were with that key and yes, there are a lot of fond memories. Within a year of acquisition however, a neighbor, Frank Hernandez W2MOF (sk) loaned me his Vibroplex Blue Racer bug. The Blue Racer and the Teleplex sat side-by-side on the operating desk, wired in parallel, for many years. Most of my QSOs from then on were with the Blue Racer, although for years I'd drop in on the novice bands from time to time to encourage newcomers. QSOs with novices were made with the Teleplex, rather than with the Blue Racer with a clothespin on the tail piece.

Over the years a lot of keying apparatus has come and

Continued on next page.

**Around the Shack, Continued**

gone across the operating desk at N4GG (and prior callsigns). The Blue Racer was eventually returned to W2MOF. When the bug left, the Teleplex returned to center stage; but most of my scant operating time was on AM phone at that point. My story is typical – college and a new family took priority.

Shortly after returning to the hobby in the early '70s, the Accu-Keyer arrived. The *Around the Shack* column of November 2022 covers the story of the Accu-Keyer. I built and still own Accu-Keyer S/N 00001. Just as the bug had earlier, electronic keying relegated the Teleplex back to the sidelines. My Accu-Keyer was first accompanied by a Brown Brothers iambic paddle. I learned iambic keying on that setup. I did incorporate a jack for a straight key on the back of my Accu-Keyer – something not suggested in the QST article. The Teleplex wasn't used much at this point – but it stayed connected.

At N4GG the succession of paddles has never stopped. The Brown Brothers, a Vibroplex and countless Bencher BY-1, BY-2 and BY-3s have come and gone. I now own three Begali paddles. Daily sending is on a Begali Sculpture. On special occasions I break out my gold-plated, mother-of-pearl finger-pieces, personally-engraved, vertical dual-lever, custom-ordered Begali Graciella (a gift from the kids). I like the Graciella, but it does not evoke memories of my starting out like the Teleplex does. I started out with paper-route money, not “Graciella money.”

Keyers have come and gone too. The Accu-Keyer was replaced by Accu-Memory S/N 00001. That gave way to a succession of keyers, the latest being a W9XT-4 memory keyer and a WinKeyer USB used during contests.

Everything has its time, many things come and go and some things never leave. The Teleplex and Accu-Keyer S/N 1 will be with me until the end. The Teleplex is in rough shape but that's okay. I like the patina. I like the scars from many Field Days. I don't plan to “fix it up” beyond what's needed for it to perform its basic function. It comes out for Straight Key Night and my grandson Gibson (age 8) is now showing interest in Morse Code. I wonder if he would like to inherit a gift from Cortlandt Street?

73,

Hal N4GG

**FLARC January 18, 2025  
VE Testing Results**

With VE testing back on schedule,  
Gene W02W reports the following results:

Name	Call	License Earned
Donald Hays	K2DFH	General;
Nico Alkema	KE2EZO	General
Tevfik Unal	KE2FAM	Technician
Yarin Belsky	KE2EZQ	Technician

Testing for next month will be at the  
Fair Lawn Recreation Center.

**Eleven Special Interest Groups [SIGs]  
Already Formed: Any Others?**

Club interest continues to grow in the SIGs.

Another recently formed SIG is for those interested in Raspberry Pi and Arduino projects, but now includes DoltYourself (DIY)/Makers kit building, 3D printing and similar topics.

A list of all of the current SIGs is shown on page 9.

Other possible groups, from the member survey, include:

- *Radio Propagation*
- *Antennas and how they work*
- *Ham radio software*
- *Technical assistance to club members*

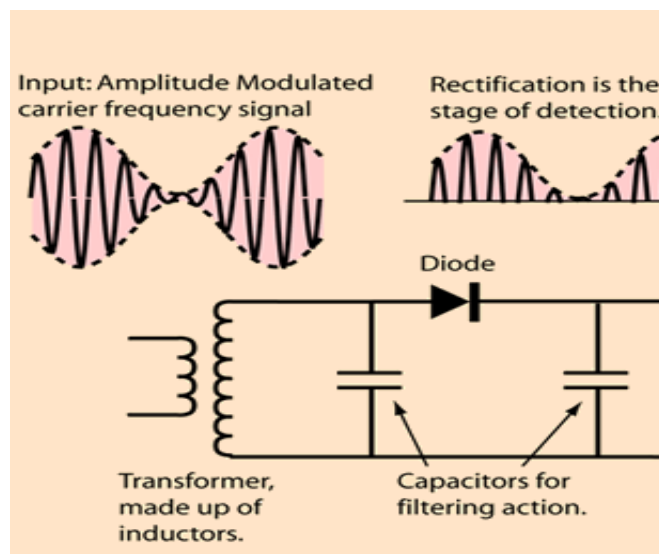
Anyone interested in leading any of these groups...?

Please contact [webmaster@FairLawnARC.org](mailto:webmaster@FairLawnARC.org)

## Theoretics Demystified

This time we continue with THE EVOLUTION OF RADIO and the DEMODULATION or recovery of signals from the transmitted radio signal. To recap, in AM/amplitude [strength of carrier] signals it is relatively easy to get audio from the transmitted wave. This is done by using some type of diode [one way electron flow device], either a vacuum tube or a solid-state diode. In the very early days, the signal was detected by a coherer, a device that uses metal filings in a glass tube that would cohere, [stick together] thus the name. This was not a very good way of detecting signals, but it was all they had at the time.

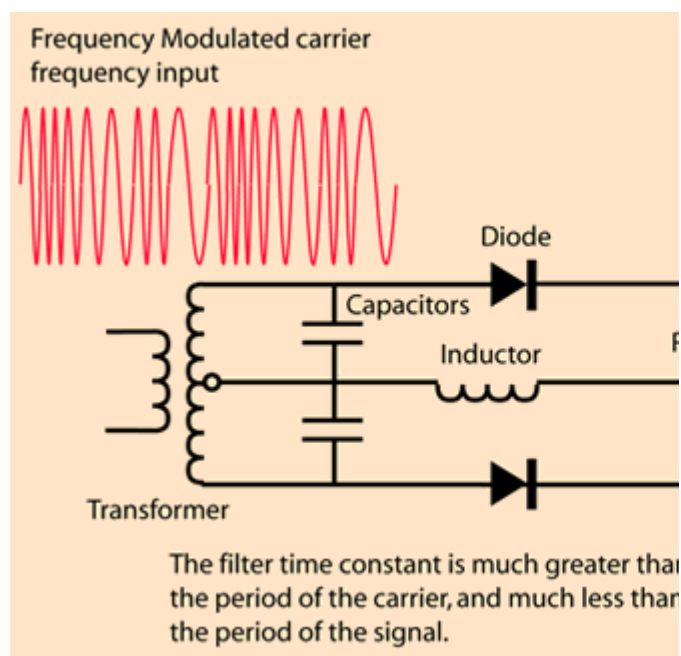
How do diodes recover radio signals? A diode rectifies the signal, and the resulting signal is passed through a LOW PASS filter which rejects the AM carrier wave. The filter for AM passes only frequencies below 5KHz [cycles per second], which is the audio you hear on an AM radio. In the olden days the early sets did not necessarily have an audio filter as the headsets of the day had a very poor frequency response, thereby acting as a filter. Below is a diagram of an AM demodulating circuit.



Another name for the AM demodulating circuit is a PEAK detector — that is why the circuit responds to lightning crashes.

With FM the carrier moves up and down in frequency in response to the signal modulating the carrier. There are several circuits that are used to demodulate an FM signal. One of the simplest is the slope detector; there are also discriminators and ratio detectors. All these designs rely upon an inductance/capacitance tuned circuit to convert the FM carrier variation to an

amplitude signal which is then de-modulated using diodes to produce an audio output. Below is a simple circuit that demodulates an FM signal.



Modern equipment uses a phase locked loop to perform the same job with much better performance. There are now complete radios on a chip. Where do hams use FM? In every VHF and UHF portable and base unit!

Fred Wawra, W2ABE, 73.

## HAMSPEAK

### CARRIER:

A generated signal of radio frequencies that is used to carry information from a transmitter to a receiver, hence the name "carrier".

### AM Amplitude Modulation:

The carrier conveys information by varying its strength according to the audio input signal.

### FM Frequency Modulation:

The carrier conveys information by varying its frequency up and down according to the information input.

### DEMODULATION:

Circuitry that takes a carrier signal with information and pulls out the information from the carrier.

### TUNED CIRCUIT:

Inductance and capacitance components that, working together, are designed to let certain frequencies pass and others to be rejected.

Fred Wawra, W2ABE, 73.

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## FLARC • W2NPT • WINTER FIELD DAY 2025

Above the New York City main post office (now the Moynihan Rail Station) is the famous postman's motto: **"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."** This could well be adapted and applied to the intrepid members of the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. Through the blazing heat, thunder, lightning and torrential downpours last June to the snow, arctic temperatures and biting winter winds of January 25, FLARC Field Days carry on. Nothing stays these courageous and dedicated FLARC hams from completion of a successful Field Day.

Friday night before the start of Winter Field Day members gathered at the Clubhouse to load up cars and trucks with everything needed for the event: radios, of course, but also coax, ropes, chairs, tables, all manner of wires, connectors, spare parts and a tent... in short everything required to set up and run a ham radio operation in the field, which, at the end of the day, is the purpose of Field Days.

Saturday morning of Winter Field Day the intrepid FLARC Field Day warriors were greeted with temperatures in the single digits. Braving the cold and bundled up like Eskimos on a hunt, FLARC members trudged through snow and ice to put up two end fed antennas and Chris KE2NJ's trap dipole. Also set up was Steve WI2W's impressive satellite antenna array and related tent. Key to Winter Field this year, as in the past, was the generous use of the Pompton Lakes Emergency Field Communications Van. Three stations were set up in the van allowing for operations from 80 through 10 meters, as well VHF bands, in cool but acceptable conditions.

Operation began soon after the opening bell at 11:00 and all three stations were quickly abuzz making contacts. These operations continued non-stop through the end of Winter Field Day 2025 at 14:00 on Sunday. The repetitive chorus of "3 Mike NNJ" echoed through the van – as well as the melodious dit dahs of CW QSOs.

At FLARC Field Days breakfast, lunch and dinner are never overlooked. This year was no exception. A food station was well used throughout the weekend

providing bagels and donuts for breakfast, hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch, snacks all during the event and, as a special treat, chili for dinner. No one goes hungry at FLARC Field Days.

Visitors are always welcome at FLARC Field Days and this year two visitors stopped by. Ria N2RJ came to offer encouragement. Also a ham from Japan noticed the antennas and stopped in to see what was going on. All hams seem to have "ham-dar," that is, an innate ability to spot a ham radio antenna from afar in a nanosecond.

Winter Field Day requires much advance planning and preparation as well as coordinated set up, operation and tear down. To accomplish this well a leader with experience, wisdom, determination and a healthy sense of humor is essential. FLARC was fortunate to have had just such a leader in Noel "El Capitan" W2MSA for Winter Field Day 2025. Noel seemed to be omnipresent all weekend directing, supervising and working as hard as anyone to make Winter Field Day the success it was.

A list of all participants always runs the risk of inadvertently leaving someone out. If someone did participate and is not listed, we apologize for the oversight, no disrespect is intended. Here is a list of FLARC members who braved snow and ice, single digit temperatures and biting winds to make Winter Field Day 2025 the success it was : **W2MSA, WI2W, WO2W, WO2X, KE2NJ, W2KNG, N2SU, W2JC, KE2YEW, N2BTD, NP4H, WO2L, KE2DFZ, KD2SOG, KD2KLN. KE2CJU.**

In his epic poem, Ode to the West Wind, the poet Percy Shelley wrote "If winter is here, can spring be far behind?" Having braved the ravages of winter, our thoughts now turn to the warmth of summer, which of course means Field Day 2025. If you missed the fun in January, consider joining your fellow members this June. You will enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow hams, maybe spend some time at one of the operating stations, perhaps help put up an antenna, or just hang around. In any event, whatever role you choose remember this: no one goes hungry at a FLARC Field Day.

— Reported by Jim Jalil W2KNG

**FLARC • W2NPT • WINTER FIELD DAY 2025 • Results**

W2NPT's Contest Summary Report for WFD  
 Created by N3FJP's Winter Field Day Contest Log  
 Version 2.9.0 www.n3fjp.com

Total Contacts = 649  
 Total Points = 881

Operating Period:  
 2025/01/25 17:47 - 2025-01-25 19:18

Total op time (breaks > 30 min deducted): 20:30:28  
 Total op time (breaks > 60 min deducted): 21:26:17

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
----	--	-----	---	-----	---
80	59	65	0	124	19
40	106	145	0	251	39
20	67	52	0	119	18
15	0	36	0	36	6
10	0	117	0	117	18
2	0	1	0	1	0
70cm	0	1	0	1	0
----	--	-----	---	-----	---
Total	232	417	0	649	100

Total Contacts by Country:

Country	Total	%
-----	-----	---
USA	617	95
Canada	22	3
France	3	0
Alaska	1	0
Cuba	1	0
Ecuador	1	0
French Guiana	1	0
Netherlands	1	0
Puerto Rico	1	0
Turks & Caicos Is.	1	0

Total = 10

Total DX Miles (QSOs in USA not counted) = 35,367  
 Average miles per DX QSO = 1,105

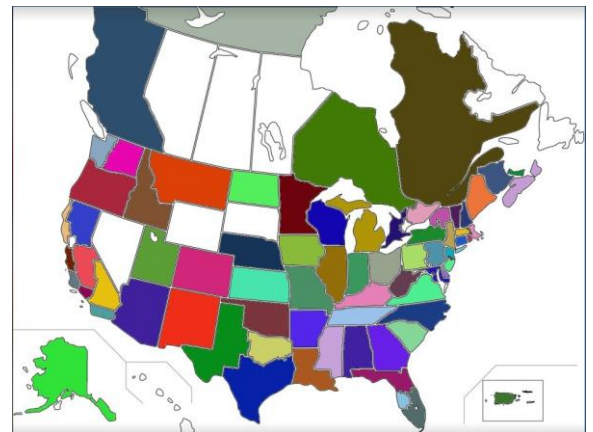
FLARC Webmaster Jim W2JC reported:

"I just submitted our 'official' WFD score summary and we had 881 QSO points times 17 multipliers for a presumed score of 14,977"

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	Total	%
-----	-----	---
NP4H	151	23
W02X	118	18
W2MSA	76	12
N2BTD	56	9
W02L	51	8
K2ZC	49	8
KD2YEW	47	7
KE2NJ	43	7
N2SU	23	4
K2KCC	16	2
KE2DFZ	11	2
KE2DVO	8	1

Total = 12



The importance of a single contact —

WFD rules give a multiplier of SIX for operating on 6 or more bands during the event.

As you can see from our contest report at the upper left, our primary operation was on only five bands.

But thanks to Chris KE2NJ, who made ONE contact on 2 meters and one contact on 440MHz, we were able to claim six bands !



**Views from FLARC • W2NPT • WINTER FIELD DAY 2025**



Don't we wish that we had use of that bucket truck?



Thanks to KD2SOG for these photos.



**FLARC BIDS FAREWELL — A Tribute to Barry WV2X**

By: Fred KR2H

Today, I pay tribute to old time FLARC member Barry Sykes **WV2X**. I've known Barry since 1963, when we were sophomores at Fair Lawn High School. In those days, I had just upgraded from Novice to General class, and Barry was still a Novice. His first call was **WN2GHL**. We first met at the F.L.H.S. Amateur Radio Club, **WA2KMH**.

In those days, the High School club was located in a former projection booth in the "A" wing of the school, just above the girls' gym. Our station consisted of an E.F. Johnson "Viking II" transmitter, which ran 130 Watts output on CW and 100 Watts output on AM phone, and covering 160 through 10 Meters. Paired with it was an E.F. Johnson model 122 VFO.



The "Viking II" was a classic, high performance transmitter originally introduced in the mid-1950s, and still very much in use by amateurs in the early '60s. But LOOK at all those adjustments! Every one of them had to be properly set, and it was a CHORE. Things have sure changed since then, haven't they?

Our receiver was a huge hunk of metal known as a National Radio model NC-183D, which was a double conversion general coverage super-heterodyne with a forest of tubes, and that covered the AM broadcast band through 56 MHz. Bandspread was provided for the 80 through 10 Meter amateur bands. A separate wooden baffled loudspeaker was supplied by somebody's home ham shack.



I couldn't guess how much all this iron weighed, but nobody ever tried finding out, for fear of developing a double hernia. Ham radio equipment was BIG in those days, and only men who spent time at the gym were best equipped to carry it.

Our antenna was a Mosley TA-33 Junior, which was a trapped, tri-band Yagi covering 10, 15, and 20 Meters (long before the WARC bands), that handled up to 300 Watts RF carrier as I recall. It was mounted directly above our heads on the roof of the building, on a 10 foot tower section, and next to a skylight. Although we could cover all three of the "upper HF bands," most of our operating was on 20 Meters, always searching for DX.

Barry and I joined FLARC at about the same time, sometime around July of 1963, and the High School club in September, right after starting our sophomore year. The only other member of both clubs was Gene **WO2W**, who was a Technician class in those days with the call **WB2HID**.

My General class call was **WB2CST** "Central Standard Time," Barry's **GHL** was "Greatest Ham Living," and Gene's **HID** was "Half Inch Dipole." It was common in those days to think of clever phonetics for your call. That practice seems to have fallen by the wayside in recent years.

When Barry passed his General exam about that time, it happened to coincide with the F.C.C. announcing that they were switching over from a manual licensing system to one fully computerized. I remember how much they boasted about their new, modern, efficient system, promising easier processing of new licenses, and the expected faster service that would follow. Only it didn't quite work out that way.

Barry anxiously awaited his General class call, **WB2GHL**, and wait he did, for months. I can't remember how many months, but it was enough to make Barry call the Gettysburg, Pennsylvania licensing office more than once to find out what had happened, and when he could expect to get his license. Eventually, he received it, accompanied by a few "choice words" from Barry.

In those days, FLARC met Friday nights only, at the Old Municipal Building on Gardiner Road and 11<sup>th</sup> Street, in the exact same place where the Senior Center is now. We had 3 rooms on the second floor, and our neighbors then, as now, were the Fair Lawn Players. Frank Leonard held court in one of the rooms, where he sent code practice for potential Novice class amateurs.

Continued on next page.

We were expected to attend Carl Van Riper's "General Theory Class," but none of the three of us did. We didn't need to, having already gone beyond Novice class. In those days, Carl (**K2YCB**) and Frank (**W2NPT**) often exchanged words about one thing or another, especially that there were too many "clowns" in the club. Carl called us kids "clowns," but Frank took our side. "They're not 'clowns,' Frank would say, "They're just kids. Give 'em a break." Frank was our guy, and we appreciated that.

Truth be known, though, FLARC in those days was more like the Wild West. We really were a bunch of wild kids, cocky and often mischievous, and I guess that got under Carl's skin. Eventually, Carl left the club, Frank Leonard was President, and he allowed us kids to run for officers. I think it was 1964 into '65 that Barry was elected Secretary and I was elected President. Bob Killi **WA2WYW**, who passed away last year, was one of the members also.

Somewhere in my "vast file of trivia," I think I have some of Barry's handwritten meeting Minutes. Come to think of it, I think I just might have a copy of the original By-Laws, which were written by Hal Kennedy, then **WA2QPW**, and now **N4GG**. Hal moved out of town in 1962, I believe, and we seldom saw him after that. I wish I could find some of that old FLARC stuff, and if I ever do, I'll donate it to the club archives. Here's me, in the Winter of 1964-'65, opening the FLARC building on a Saturday shortly after being elected President, and having keys...



Friday nights, we opened up at around 6:00pm. I used to walk the mile or so to get to the club until I was 16. Then I drove my dad's 1956 Buick "Century." After our get-togethers at the club, some of us would pile into somebody else's car and we'd adjourn to one of several local eateries, usually Johnny & Hange's, when they were still on River Street in Paterson. Now and then, we'd go to a long-gone place called Toby's on Route 20 in Paterson. Only once do I recall another place, also long-gone, on Route 4 West, among a small group of stores just before what used to be a large estate, later made part of the Paramus Country Club, and just before entering Fair Lawn from Paramus. Somebody from our group once couldn't eat their fish cakes, so he flushed them down the toilet, causing a minor flood, and a prompt exit from that place.

Barry's first car was a beat-up 1949 dark green Pontiac that had at least one hole in the floor of the rear seat area, and a slight, but noticeable smell of gasoline. I remember Barry telling us not to strike a match back there, "Or we'll all be blown to bits." Later, he drove his family car, an Olds 88, which was much more comfortable, and a lot safer for smokers.

Barry was a passionate ham, but he had some QRM from his mom about spending too much time on the radio and not enough time studying. "Study! Study! Study!" Barry's mom would say, so he was forced to limit his time on the air. He was expected to be more serious, like his older brother, Dennis, who had already entered college, and who had no other hobbies. I felt sorry for him.

Barry had a very modest station. His transmitter was a second-hand Johnson "Adventurer," that someone had repainted a shocking shade of blue, and which he complained gave him shocks when he operated. His receiver was a Lafayette HE-10, a very basic Japanese import model, sold by Lafayette Radio on Route 17 in Paramus. He later replaced the "Adventurer" with a Hallicrafters HT-40, a slight cut above it. One time, he bought a Clegg 22'er, a 2 Meter transceiver, and Barry and I climbed onto his roof after school one day to install an 11-element 2 Meter Yagi and rotator. His next door neighbor spotted us up there and later snitched to Barry's mom. He caught hell for that, and hardly went on 2 meters afterwards. I never knew what kind of equipment he had in later years.

Sometimes, after a Friday evening at FLARC, a few of us would join Barry in his Olds and engage in a kind of joy riding known as "Bombin' around." That meant driving around rather aimlessly, seeking adventure.

Sometimes Barry drove up the new Route 80, going as far as the western end of Paterson, where the then uncompleted highway came to an end. He'd have to turn off, and find his way back to familiar territory. Sometimes, we drove out on Route 46 to Morris County and back. Sometimes, we just drove around Fair Lawn, and one of our guys would spot some girls walking down Fair Lawn Avenue, roll down the window and shout, "How 'bout a date, baby?" The rest of us would be embarrassed by this sort of thing, and a bit worried, too. What if one of those girls decided to take him up on that? What would the rest of us say and do?

The winter of 1964-65 marked changes in my station. My dad had gifted me a new Drake TR-3 HF transceiver. It ran 300 Watts PEP (input) on SSB, 150 Watts on CW and maybe 100 Watts on AM. I became the envy of my small group of ham friends, having one of the most desirable rigs of the day. I disassembled my sad little Novice station, and felt on top of the ham radio world.

That New Year's Eve, I hosted a New Year's party for my group of ham radio outcasts at my parents' home. Quite a group attended. There were no drinks except soda, but what drew many was my Drake TR-3, each General class eager to work some DX with it.



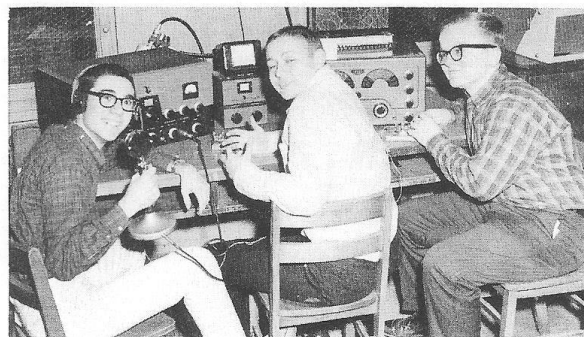
New Year's Eve at my home, 1964-65. Clockwise from left: Glenn, WB2JGD, Barry, WV2X (ex-WB2GHL), Steve, W2SG (ex-WB2ERM), and me, KR2H (ex-WB2CST).

The book on the table is the winter edition of the 1964-65 Call Book. It was a lot thinner in those days, and long before QRZ.com. Others attending our soiree were Craig, WR2G (ex-WB2HJW), Bob, W2WE (ex-WN2PGA, later WB2PGA), and Jim Havel (no call).

We were a practically inseparable group, sharing boasts of DX worked, our latest building project, bragging about long distance QRP contacts, and experimenting with an endless variety of antennas in order to have the best signal on each band. It was friendly in nature, but it pushed us to excel in several areas of our chosen pastime.

By 1965, our Senior year in High School, we had pretty much settled into our favorite ham radio activities. Mine was DX, building electronic equipment and antenna experimentation. Barry just wanted to have a decent signal without having to spend a lot of money.

In 1965, Barry, me, and another of our group, Steve W2SG (ex-WB2ERM), would be immortalized in the April Fool's issue of the *Crimson Crier*, the Fair Lawn High School newspaper. I don't know who wrote the article or took the picture, but it was a hoot...



## Radio Club Breaks Through

The Radio Club, under the direction of Mr. Harold Hoch, FLHS science teacher, finally announced radio contact with Mars, March 15. The group meets in the morning before school, and for the past six months they have been trying to radio Mars with a special secret code.

The club members contacted a radio operator on Mars who was also a high school student. "He was very pleased to hear from the FLHS students," says Mr. Hoch, "And we were thrilled to speak to him."

According to club member Steven Glazer, the Martian and the club plan to meet sometime

next month.

The Radio Club will now appear on many television programs which deal with space exploration. It has also been invited to visit Cape Kennedy. The Martians said they will give the club members detailed instructions on how to reach Mars, which they, in turn, will relay to the aeronautical engineers at Cape Kennedy.

Our interplanetary radio station at WA2KMH. Left to right: Steve, W2SG (ex-WB2ERM), me, and Barry, WV2X (ex-WB2GHL).

This was during NASA's heyday, when all of us "science kids" could not devour enough technical literature, and college level texts in all the sciences. Occasional pilgrimages to New York's Radio Row, Lafayette Radio, Gem Electronics, Nidisco, Jedco and NRM were for



buying whatever parts we couldn't scrounge from hamfests, old TV sets, radios, and whatnot on nights before garbage was picked up the following day. Our "junkboxes" runneth over.

That summer, my family vacationed first in Miami Beach, then Nassau. Barry was in Miami at the same time, and we met up at the Fontainebleu. Here's a shot taken in my family's room, just before dinner, Barry at left, me at right...



That September, Barry and I entered Fairleigh Dickinson, and life interfered with our friendship for a while as we strove to keep up our GPAs. Barry left school after his Freshman year, and spent a few years at RCA Institutes, studying computer technology. Then he spent some years working at his father's business, a men's clothing store in Oakland, and I lost track of him. I graduated with a B.A. in English in 1969.

In the early 1970s I saw an item in the *Fair Lawn News* announcing Barry's graduation from FDU with a B.S.E.E. It was a double ceremony. His brother Dennis also graduated with an M.S. in Mathematics.

I lost contact with Barry completely until 2015, when I joined our High School Class' Reunion Committee. One of my contacts to call was Barry, and we reconnected at the Reunion. What followed was a long correspondence by email, and an occasional meet-up for lunch.

Two years later, FLARC held an "Old Timer's Night" in the card room at the Community Center. I invited Barry, and he attended, along with several old time members that I hadn't seen in many years.



**FLARC Old Timer's Night, August 18, 2017. From left: Pete, W2HP; Ed, WX2R; Gene, WO2W; me; Van, W2DLT; Steven, WA2BYX; Barry, WV2X. Seated: Neil, NU2R (Silent key). Also attending was Bob, WA2WYW (Silent Key), and Skip Osborn, K2RJF, (who attended by phone).**

Attendees shared stories of former days at FLARC: Frank Leonard, Field Days at Blasberg's Farm in Hawthorne, another one in Oakland at a former New Jersey Assemblyman's estate, lots of good humor, and a good time was had by all.

Shortly after this get-together, Barry donated a classic Heathkit AT-1 transmitter to the club that he had completely restored to operating condition, and I donated a working Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver. Both of these units were donated to duplicate FLARC's original Novice Station, located at our former headquarters at the Old Municipal Building on Gardiner Road. We also acquired a Heathkit HW-30 "Twoer," donated to the club by Gene **WO2W**, AKA "The Twoer Kid."

Barry and I had one final luncheon meeting either in late 2017 or early 2018 at the Land & Sea diner in Fair Lawn. He didn't look well, but his mind was still sharp, so I had hopes for his good health. Not long ago, I emailed him, but received no reply. With some trepidation, I did a web search under his name, and was

shocked to find his obituary. Barry passed away on December 2, 2024. He originally lived on Fourth Street in Fair Lawn, but after High School, his family moved to Ringwood, where he remained until his death.

His obituary can be found here...

<https://www.dagostinofuneralhome.com/obituary/Barry-Sykes-1>

Barry was one the kindest, most humble, truly decent human beings I have ever known. He had a great sense of humor about things, including ham radio, and we shared a somewhat cynical, yet good natured amusement about life. We were both great fans of Jean Shepherd, often sharing reminiscences about Shep's stories, even many years after hearing them.

Barry and I also shared an interest in amateur radio history, always looking for a reasonably priced vintage receiver or transmitter to clean up and restore to working condition. He was also a good troubleshooter and repairer of old equipment. He completely restored an old Hallicrafters receiver that I had in my Novice days, documenting every part replaced, and even recording figures obtained while completing a thorough realignment. When I offered to pay him for his efforts, he refused my offers, so I treated him to a lunch, instead.

Good friends are precious, and they will always be remembered. The world needs more of them.

R.I.P., Barry. You were one of the good guys.

73, Fred, KR2H



DX-Adventure is thrilled to announce our upcoming DX-pedition to the beautiful South Andaman Islands (IOTA AS-001).

From March 10th to March 20th, 2025, an experienced team of 12 operators will be active from South Andaman, operating 6 stations around the clock on bands from 10m to 160m (incl. WARC + 60m), using CW, SSB, and DIGI. Months of careful planning and preparation have brought together an international team of experienced DX-peditioners, including:

ON4AMX Marc | ON4HIL Patrick | ON5UR Max | ON5RA Pascal | ON5TN Karel | ON6CC Marc | ON7FT Jonas | ON7USB Geert | ON7RU Franky | ON8AZ Francis | PA3EWP Ronald | PA9M Marcel.

Six stations mean a lot of material and it is a big challenge to transport it all to VU4. With 1.150kg of equipment meticulously prepared, we will try to offer the best experience possible for you, covering 24/7 operations to maximize the change on having a QSO with us. VU4 ranks as #28 for the USA and #53 worldwide, making it a rare and exciting challenge.



## RADIONS AND SNOW

For years scientists have been investigating the effect of snow on "Radions," the baffling sub-atomic particles of radio waves that flow off ham radio, and only ham radio, antennas.

The effect of snow on radions was first discovered by Mr. Charles "Old Half Glasses" Finkleman in 1963 while administering a General Class license exam to a terrified teenager. The scientific breakthrough came to him when the young lad had missed passing the exam by just one question.

In a very uncharacteristic show of humanity he removed his permanently attached cigar, blew smoke in the young boy's face (which was very characteristic) and said, "Kid, if you can explain why you came here in a raging blizzard to take this exam, I'll pass you."

In a fit of coughing the boy said, "To get my radio on VFO." But what Old Half Glasses heard was, "to get radions out in the snow." This led him to spend the next several years investigating the effect of snow on radions.

In a landmark paper published in the South Bronx Journal of Technical Absurdities (the "SBJTA") he showed with mathematical certainty that radions emitted on ham radio bands reflect off snow flakes in non-random sequencing causing particle diffusion and SWR confusion. This is now known as the Finkleman Effect.

The Finkleman Effect has been proven time and again by hams in Northern climates as snow seems to send confused radions in all manner of diffused directions while SWR readings range from normal to No Way Jose.

Oddly non-ham scientists have never been able to duplicate this anomaly, which seems to perplex only amateur radio operators. In fact the SBJTA had to cease publication after printing Mr. Finkleman's article.

So while the main stream scientific community may scoff, hams smugly confirm the Finkleman Effect with every blizzard. In that way the cherished name of Mr. Charles "Old Half Glasses" Finkleman lives on in the ham radio community in cherished memory with every falling snowflake.

Submitted, with tongue in cheek and "fond" memories of the NYC FCC office, by Jim Jalil W2KNG





## Contest Corner

Reported by Jim W2JC



### What is the WWA?

The World Wide Award is the first international radio project that aims to aggregate the largest number of countries in the world in a single event, excluding the already well-known world contests. Born from the experience of the HamInnovation team during the three years of organizing WRTC 2022, it is now the world's leading radio event in terms of the number of QSOs and activators. WWA has been growing continuously since its first edition in January 2024, and after its great success, it was decided to organize a faster edition, the "Sprint World Wide Award," in July. All technology is managed by Hamaward.cloud, the most well-known and powerful platform on the market for organizing large radio events where automating the coordination of activators and providing the most data and information in real time is essential.

During the entire month of January, several of our FLARC members were caught up in the "contesting fever" of this event. Unlike the usual weekend or field day type contest where you try to make the most contacts per hour, this event is more "laid back" and not quite as hectic.

By the end of the month, there were 80 special event stations around the world (see the list further into this article) who were the "activators" that everyone else tried to contact. Ideally, you could contact each station every day on each of 9 bands and six modes [ SSB, CW, FT8, FT4, RTTY, PSK ] – an almost impossible feat for the average ham, considering that some of the stations

were apparently hardly ever on the air and if they were propagation was not good to all of them.

But if you were "bit by the bug" and accepted the challenge, it WAS quite a challenge to chase as many of the stations as could be heard at your QTH at various times of the day and night. And clever use of all the spotting tools, such as

[dxsummit.fi](https://dxsummit.fi)  
[www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html](https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html)  
[hamspots.net](https://hamspots.net)  
[hamalert.org](https://hamalert.org)

to name just a few ... as well as helpful friends on the FLARC Slack chat channels !!

One of the really nice features of this event was the real time tally of not only your current score, but a detailed chart of all the contacts (band and mode) you have made so far. If you had a doubt whether the dx station logged you, it would show up on the real time chart right away — as all the activator stations had direct logging to the event database! [see Fig. \_\_\_\_]

The club Slack channel was very helpful and a lot of fun for those of us who are on it, as we would share our spots — especially if we found a "hard to get" call — and we'd cheer each other on when we made those hard to get contacts.

So why do hams spend all of their available time on an event like this? There's no money in it! Most of the activating stations were not in really rare countries, so not likely to get any ATNOs (All Time New Ones). But it's kind of like fishing — you are testing your skills, your rig, your antenna, your internet, your knowledge of propagation, your ability to operate various modes. And in addition to pushing for the best score YOU can get, it's a friendly competition among fellow club members. At the end, you check your ranking among all the other participants in the WORLD, and also all in the USA who participated. And you get to download a nice looking award certificate! (More on all these "prizes" later in the article).

Here are some of the FLARC members who played:

Call	Score	World rank of 153,539	USA rank of 31,956
K2DBK	3811	735	42
W2JC	1253	2671	156
KR2H	880	3672	214
K2SPL	250	4411(ssb)	282(ssb)
KA2YRA	167	13285	1082

Continued on next page.

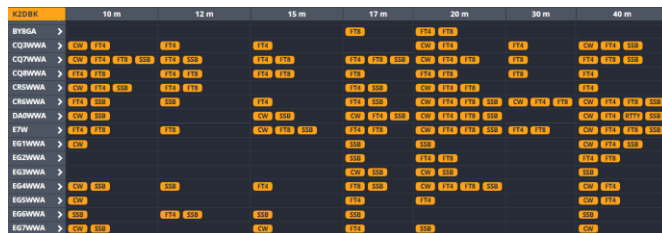


## Contest SIG, continued

Here is the list of “activating” stations around the world. This was taken from a spreadsheet that W2JC made to keep track of his WWA progress during the month of January; the green indicates stations with at least one contact.

3B8WVA	Mauritius	EG9WVA	Ceuta & Melilla
3Z6I	Poland	EN8U	Ukraine
3Z7WVA	Poland	GB1WVA	Great Britain
4M5A	Venezuela	GB2WVA	Great Britain
4U1A	Austria	GB4WVA	Scotland
5K4WVA	Columbia	GB6WVA	Wales
6K8FM	S. Korea	GB8WVA	Great Britain
BE3R	Indonesia	HB9WVA	Switzerland
9M2D	West Malaysia	HZ1WVA	Saudi Arabia
A43WVA	Oman	II0WVA	Italy
A71AE	Qatar	II1WVA	Italy
A91WVA	Bahrain	II2WVA	Italy
BA3RA	China	II3WVA	Italy
BA7CK	China	II4WVA	Italy
BG9MM	China	II5WVA	Italy
BY8AB	China	II6WVA	Italy
BY1RX	China	II7WVA	Italy
BY2AA	China	II8WVA	Italy
BY4DX	China	II9WVA	Italy
BY5HB	China	IR0WVA	Sardinia
BY6SX	China	IR1WVA	Valle d'Aosta
BY8GA	China	N0V	Norcity
CQ3WVA	Madeira Is.	N1W	Mass.
CQ7WVA	Portugal	N5W	Texas
CQ8WVA	Azores	N9W	Wisc.
CR5WVA	Portugal	OL5WVA	Czech
CR6WVA	Portugal	P49X	Aruba
DA8WVA	Germany	PA25WVA	Netherlands
E7W	Bosnia	RW1F	Russia
EG1WVA	Spain	SS3WVA	Slovenia
EG2WVA	Spain	SN3WVA	Poland
EG3WVA	Catalunya	SN4WVA	Poland
EG4WVA	Spain	SN6WVA	Poland
EG5WVA	Spain	SN7WVA	Poland
EG6WVA	Balearic Is.	SX8W	Greece
EG7WVA	Spain	T77LA	San Marino
EG8WVA	Canary Is.	TI1I	Costa Rica
TK4TH	Corsica		
UP7WVA	Kazakhstan		
W4I	Puerto Rico		
YI1RN	Iraq		
YQ8T	Romania		
YU5EA	Serbia		
ZW5B	Brazil		

Here is an example of the real-time log status showing your contacts with each station, on each band, with a bubble for each mode – and mouse-over shows how many contacts made with that mode on that band with that station! Really quite a merge of computer technology with ham radio sport.



Also available on the WWA website were individual status reports. Here are some samples –



Contesting is just ONE of the many, many facets of ham radio awaiting your interest. From time to time during each year, FLARC participates in various contests from our club station – W2NPT. When you decide to try some contesting, just stop by the club “house” on a Tuesday or Friday evening, 1800-2100 and someone will be glad to show you “the ropes.” Check the club website main page to confirm club will be open.

Check club calendar for various events, including contests -- <https://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>

Scroll down and click on month to get full calendar.



## ELECTRONIC DUES PAYMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!



**FLARC dues, new and renewal — and even donations! —  
can now be made on-line ...**

Until permanent arrangements can be made, several fiduciaries of the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club have graciously agreed to forward electronic payments to the Club's bank account.

Payments can be made using Zelle account.



- Log into your Zelle account
- Use the following phone number as the recipient: 201-240-9317
- In the notes section, include your Call Sign and what year(s) the dues are for

Once complete, you may – for added assurance - send a screenshot to [treasurer@FairLawnARC.org](mailto:treasurer@FairLawnARC.org)

– please be sure to redact any personal information –  
(e.g. bank account number, balance, etc.)

**For both new and renewal, please complete the Membership Application form at**  
**<https://FairLawnARC.com/membership.pdf>**

with your current info and either give it to a club officer  
or mail it to the address on the form.

For additional information on club membership, visit  
<http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>

Visit the club website at <http://FairLawnARC.org> for info about the club,  
club activities, club history and our club 2-meter repeater.

For a PDF form that can be filled in on-line, then printed and mailed with check, [CLICK HERE](#)

Or you can print this page, fill it in and mail to the address shown at the bottom.



## Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club

*Fair Lawn Recreation and Community Center  
10-10 20th Street  
Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410*

### MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box \_\_\_\_\_ Ste./Apt # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Roster Published Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Unpublished Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Roster Published EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ License class: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply      ARRL Member ?      RACES Member ?      ARES Member ?      CERT ?      VE ?

Additional Family Members (In same household) --

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Introductory and Student Membership      \$ 20      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Students under the age of 18 eligible for student membership)  
(Introductory membership open to new members  
or not a member in last 7 yrs)

Associate Membership \*      (No Fee)

\* Open to Fair Lawn Residents Only. No voting rights or other privileges.

Renewal of Current Membership      \$ 25      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Three Year Renewal Incentive      \$ 65      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Single memberships only, family memberships excluded)

Additional Family Members    # \_\_\_\_\_ at      \$ 5 each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Life Membership      \$ 625      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Life Membership (65 yrs. of age or over)      \$ 250      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment Fund Donation, above regular membership dues      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total submitted      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge the By laws and rules and regulations of the club and will abide by them as amended

Please Note: Memberships are NOT Pro-Rated. Membership is from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> of any given year unless documented otherwise.

Please make your dues check payable to the "Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club" and remit to the following address:

**Fair Lawn ARC  
– Attn: Treasurer  
10-10 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410**



Complete this form for NEW or RENEWAL of ARRL membership  
and give to FLARC Treasurer [David Gotlib KD2MOB] with your payment check.



## Membership Application

☐ New    ☐ Renew    ☐ Previous Member    ☐ Unlicensed

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (\$12 per member)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please note my new address    ☐ I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings

### Your Annual Membership Dues\*

Circle Your Choice (rates effective Jan. 1, 2024)

	1 Year	3 Years
Standard membership	\$59	\$174
Family (same membership exp. date and address)	\$12	\$36
Student (must be under age 26)	\$30	
Blind (requires one-time statement of legal blindness)	\$12	\$36

### Add-on ARRL Subscriptions

**QST**, ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs.

☐ 1 Year \$25\*    ☐ 3 Years \$75\*

**On the Air**, For beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs.

☐ 1 Year \$25\*    ☐ 3 Years \$75\*

### Member Benefits

Your membership supports benefits, services, and programs that keep you active and on the air.

#### Membership Includes:

- Access to four digital magazines and archives (*QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, & *NCJ*)
- Unlimited courses through the ARRL Learning Center ([learn.arrl.org](http://learn.arrl.org))
- Logbook of The World®, contests, and award programs

...and more!

\*A print subscription for *QST* and/or *On the Air* requires an ARRL membership. Dues and subscription rates are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable

### Payment Information

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Charge to:    ☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard    ☐ AmEx    ☐ Discover    ☐ Check Enclosed

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1400  
membership@arrl.org • [www.arrl.org/join](http://www.arrl.org/join)

CLUB  
form rev 1/24

## February 2025

### FLARC Business Meeting

FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
MINUTES of BUSINESS MEETING  
Fair Lawn Senior Center  
February 7, 2025

Due to technical problems with the Zoom connection for remote members, start of the meeting was delayed and remote members were not able to see or hear the meeting proceedings. The Club's President Gene WO2W called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. At his request the members present in person rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Club Secretary Jim W2JC checked the officer role.  
The Secretary found the following:

President	Gene	WO2W	Present
Vice President	Nomar	NP4H	Not Present
Treasurer	Robert	KD2SOG	Present
Secretary	Jim	W2JC	Present
Trustee	Van	W2DLT	Not Present
Trustee	Judith	KC2LTM	Present (by Zoom)
Trustee	Noel	W2MSA	Not Present

The Secretary confirmed to the President that a quorum existed in order for the meeting to proceed and business be conducted.

The President asked if there were any visitors present; none responded. But the President recognized Thom W2NZ whom we have not seen in a long time.

The President then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 3, 2025 as published in the January Resonator. Upon motion made by Robert KC2ORX and seconded by Jim N2JLF the minutes were unanimously approved.

The President then asked the Treasurer, Robert KD2SOG, to give the Treasurer's Report. Robert gave the various account balances. The Treasurer reported that our balance is up \$272 this month due to incoming payment of 2025 dues. He reported expenditure of \$173 for the metal shelving rack and storage containers obtained for use in our basement storage area. Upon motion the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Treasurer reminded members that if you pay your dues "on line" using Zelle you should also fill out an updated membership form (see Resonator or website) and bring it to the club or mail it to the address shown on the form. He also announced that payments cannot be accepted via PayPal until further notice.

A three-minute video of our Winter Field Day event, created by Mike KD2YEW, was presented on the large video for the meeting attendees to view. [Webmaster W2JC indicated that the video is on the main FLARC web page, for those who have not yet seen it. It is also available in our YouTube presence at <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org> ]

## February 2025 FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

President then asked Jim W2JC to read the report sent by Noel W2MSA (WFD Coordinator):

I would like to thank everyone who helped out in many different ways this Winter Field Day weekend. Beginning with planning, transporting, set up, operating, cooking, troubleshooting, tear down and returning everything back to the club.

Thanks to the Pompton Lakes OEM/CERT team for the use of their Communications Van for the weekend. We operated all three HF stations from inside the van very effectively.

Winter Field Day always presents many challenges, which allow us to figure things out “on the fly” when trying to set up communication stations from the field — which I absolutely love doing. We were able to successfully set up three HF stations along with three antennas and one satellite station.

We made successful contacts on the following bands:  
80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, 2m and 70cm  
using various modes of SSB, FM, CW and digital.

We had 3 to 4 people operating overnight.  
I hope everyone had a great time and learned a thing or two.

Jim W2JC then summarized the club's WFD score as a total of 649 contacts and 881 basic points before the multipliers. We had a multiplier of 17. (Jim then thanked especially Chris KE2NJ for making a couple of contacts on 2 meters and 440MHz which allowed us to qualify for a special multiplier of SIX!). We operated for just over 20 hours, with 12 operators during the weekend. Jim W2JC said that a full report with statistics and photos will be in the February issue of the Resonator.

Technical committee report was given by Dave W02X. He reported that Jim W2JC has kept the PCs at all the operating positions updated for Windows and the other software we use. Jim is also working on creating consistent IP addresses for our various operating positions, as well as continuing to enhance his “block diagram” of the club's internal networking and equipment so that the Technical Committee has accurate documentation. The Technical Committee is still in the “discussion and analysis” mode regarding any possible changes or additions to the club antennas.

President W02W reported that major cleanup and storage has been accomplished in the club rooms so that “the club now can hold square dances because everything has been cleaned up and put away. The same thing with the basement.” Gene thanked those who have helped with the cleanup. Gene reported that they found “2000 sets of plastic cutlery and maybe 1000 paper plates and maybe 150 coffee cups” all of which can be used for future events. Gene reported also that he has planned another work party for next Thursday and invites offers to help. He assured us that “There's no heavy lifting”!

President W02W reminded members of the following dates:

**April 10th** is a Thursday and we are going to put together a day trip to the new Scranton University radio room, which is reported to be very state-of-the-art.



## February 2025 FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

**April 18th** is a Friday and that's World Amateur Radio Day. The club will be open and operating, and Gene is looking for someone to help organize that.

**April 22nd** is a Tuesday and that is the tentative date for the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Site student river cleanup and Science Fair, to which we have been invited to present for about ten years -- they consider us one of their favorite presentations ... especially Larry WAZALY and his "have you sent your name in Morse Code?" demo.

**May 4th** is a Sunday and FLARC will be hosting another Portable Day and we will be inviting BARA members to join us. There was thought of reserving an area at Garrett Mountain but the non-refundable fee would be over \$200 just to use the site. Instead, we will be using an area of Fair Lawn's Memorial Park (but not in our usual site) for free.

**May 26th** is a Monday and once again we have been asked to assist the Fair Lawn Recreation Department (our sponsor and "landlord") with the town's Memorial Day parade. We provide a radio car at the head of each section of the parade, to report to the grandstand the progress of that section and to report any emergencies or changes in participation in each section. Sometimes we even have a "walking contingent" IN the parade.

**June 14th** is a Saturday and will be our 5th Annual Ham Fest at Memorial Park.

**June 22nd** is a Sunday and we will set up a booth/display at the Plaza Road street fair. This has always been a great way to let the Fair Lawn residents know that they have a ham radio club in town, what the heck IS ham radio, and "Yes, we still do that!" We've gotten more than a few new members too.

**June 26th and 27th** are of course the Summer Field Day at Memorial Park.

**July 2nd** is a Wednesday and we again assist the Fair Lawn Recreation Department with the Annual Fireworks Display. We provide a radio op with HT at each of the entrances to the park, to provide communications back to "Central" for the other volunteers who run the ticket sales and collection. And we get to see the fireworks for free!!

**Some time in March**, Gene K2KJI (we all know Gene! He's at all our hamfests and auctions and generously gives us door prizes) will give us a presentation on how the Scranton University student amateur radio station was designed and built and what to expect when we have our day trip to visit there.

**In April**, we will have Ria N2RJ (a FLARC member) give us a presentation on "Using ham radio in an electric vehicle" -- no doubt much of that will deal with ignition and other noises.

A discussion ensued regarding the proposed updating and replacement of our stove and griddle used for events such as Field Day, Winter Field Day, Hamfest and Auction.

Steve WI2W then reported on FLARC assistance with running an upcoming (next week, in fact) NASA "Students speak to the International Space Station" event. This has entailed a lot of planning and work and equipment on the part of Steve WI2W, Noel W2MSA and other club members.

## February 2025 FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

This is a different event than the one scheduled for the Paterson School District at a later date. This event will be held at the Clifton Art Center, and Steve W12W and Ria N2RJ already have a lot of radio and video equipment set up, as well as special antennas “out in the yard” to track the ISS as it passes overhead. Steve reported that “everyone from the club is invited” but also cautioned that there is limited space and most visitors will be in another room watching the event on a large video screen.

Steve W12W also gave some interesting info about the upcoming Paterson P-TECH High School ISS contact event. He said the kids who will be asking the questions of the astronaut will be doing it from the school planetarium, which has only about 40 seats. The antennas will be on the roof of the building. But the entire Paterson school district is connected with their own video network, so potentially about 30,000 students will be watching the event in their own schools. (No pressure, eh Steve?!)

The question was raised: “Will FLARC get any recognition as the sponsor of these?” Steve replied that we already have the big blue FLARC banner hung right behind the radio desks, and directly in front of where the parents and dignitaries will be seated. In addition, they will be using the club call sign W2NPT while contacting the ISS.

Gene WO2W reminded everyone that the video documentation of when FLARC hosted the Fair Lawn schools ISS contact in 2011 is available on our YouTube page, which can be easily reached at <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Jim N2JLF reminded everyone that he will be running an EmComm / ARES class on Saturday, February 15th at the Red Cross building in Fairfield, NJ (about 20 minute drive from our area). Info is on the FLARC Club Calendar, or you can email Jim at [N2JLF@arrl.net](mailto:N2JLF@arrl.net)

Motion to close the meeting was made by Robert KC2ORX at 20:20, seconded by Jim N2JLF. Unanimously accepted.

Submitted by Jim Cooper W2JC, Secretary, Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club



UK student Isabella Payne, who contacted NASA astronaut Kjell Lindgren via ham radio, is shown on Lindgren's device floating in the space station.  
NASA